



North Park Primary School

Charging Policy

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Introduction

All the education we provide during normal school hours is at no charge to pupils. We do not charge for any activity undertaken as part of the National Curriculum.

From time to time, additional activities such as educational visits, visitors and clubs take place which incur charges. Wherever possible, school will try to meet or subsidise the cost of these activities to minimise cost.

Under the 1988 Education Reform Act schools are prohibited from charging for activities during school hours which are an essential part of the curriculum. However, we may ask for voluntary contributions to help with the cost of enrichment activities e.g. educational visits during school hours. Parents may be charged for events their children take part in outside the school day e.g. disco, weekend residential visits. In addition, fundraising events take place to support local and national charity appeals, Friends of the school, or for the school fund.

Voluntary contributions

- At North Park Primary School, we organise school events, including visitors or visits throughout the school year, to enrich the curriculum we offer and to enhance the educational experience of our learners. The school meets or subsidises the cost of many of these events; however, we may request that parents/carers contribute towards the cost of some of these activities. All contributions are voluntary. If we do not receive enough voluntary contributions, however, we may need to cancel visitors or visits. Where an event goes ahead, or visitors to the school deliver activities to enhance our curriculum, learners whose parents have not paid any contribution will share in the experience. We do not treat these learners differently from any others.

The following is an example of some of the activities, organised by the school, which may require voluntary contributions from parents. This list is not exhaustive:

- educational visits – transport, entrance costs, workshop costs may be incurred
- sporting activities offered by coaches
- outdoor adventure activities;
- visits to or by a theatre company;
- after-school activities offered by external providers
- residential trips
- visitors delivering workshops to the pupils
- some after school clubs, to fund consumables or refreshments

We have a wide range of activities that are offered free of charge and most other activities are subsidised by the school. Free activities include:

- music tuition
- football coaching
- swimming

- family group treats
- parties and celebration events

Residential visits

If the school organises a residential visit in school time or weekends, we will request a subsidised charge to cover the costs of instruction, board and lodging and travel. If we cannot raise sufficient funding through voluntary contributions, the visit may have to be cancelled. Residential visits may include:

- Robinwood Activity Centre
- Weardale House

We try hard to raise funds to subsidise the costs of these visits, and where we are successful in fundraising, savings will be passed on to parents/carers.

Transport

For many activities transport is required. At North Park we do not charge for transport costs for activities other than school visits. Wherever possible, school pays for, or subsidises, the cost of transport. Transport for sporting events is covered by school.

Other chargeable activities

Some other activities are organised and charged for in school. These may include:

- Coffee mornings – contributions may be requested from parents to subsidise the cost of consumables
- School fairs, book fairs
- In some instances, voluntary contributions towards a class activity or school club are collected to pay for consumables

Fund raising

We occasionally hold fund raising activities to raise money for:

- Friends of the school – our parent/teacher association group who organise events such as discos, fairs, Easter egg raffle, etc – these funds are raised to support the children in school, for example, to purchase a Christmas gift each year.
- National or local charity appeals, e.g. Red Nose Day, Sport Relief, Children in Need, Macmillan Coffee Morning; these are supported on whole school and individual class level
- Year 6 Fun Day – an enterprise event organised annually by Year 6 pupils to raise funds for resources in school.
- Small scale school fund events, e.g. Cookies and Juice, Non-uniform days, Movie nights – these events help pay for consumables as well as contributing to the school fund. These funds help to support subsidy for trips, resources for children, treats for family groups, Christmas parties, etc.

Monitoring

This policy is monitored by the governing body and will be reviewed bi-annually.